



CONFRONTATION . . . The hero and the villain of the piece meet during staging of "Egad, What a Cad!" during the one-act play festival at South High recently. Gary Holzausen is the bad guy while Dennis Sullivan is the kindly old man. More than 170 persons attended the showings and the judging which resulted in a first place win for "Ladies of the Mop." Second was "The Lesson," and third was "Two Crooks and the Lady." (Press-Herald Photo)

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Off-stage, Mike Douglas looks like an average suburban husband in his early 40s — youthful, reasonably contented, and getting a little wide in the seat. His conversation is amiable but not fascinating. He is easy to be with but not witty. In short, he's pleasantly provincial.

But these very qualities have made him the most popular guest-variety program in the ladies afternoon hours of 4 to 5:30 p.m. in every major city in the country. The young housewife may not know him but you can bet that her mother does.

Douglas shoots golf in the high 70's and was in Pebble Beach recently playing in the Bing Crosby Tournament, an event that is awash with famous names. It was the farthest he had invaded Celebrity Territory to date and he was delighted that many of the spectators recognized him.

"It just knocks me out whenever I hear someone say 'Hey, there's Mike Douglas, like they've been doing on the golf course,'" he said. "When there was a large audience around him, he played better," his wife observed, as wives will.

THE DOUGLASES met when they were 17 years old. "I've been married all my life," he said happily. They have three daughters — two teenage twins, one of whom is married, and a six-year-old.

No wonder he understands women. His current hit recording is a piece about a father and daughter which he has talked into the top 20.

"I had the longest stage wait in the history of show business," said Douglas speaking of his apprenticeship before he got a show of his own. "Ten years ago I was as

good as I am today but I couldn't even get arrested."

HE WAS BORN in Chicago 40 years ago and his first singing job was aboard the old "C and B," a cruise ship which sailed the Great Lakes. He worked on WKY, Oklahoma City, in Hollywood supper clubs, and on Don McNeill's Breakfast Club. An old Chicago buddy got him the audition for a daily show the Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. was planning in Cleveland in 1961. He won the audition and the program became "The Mike Douglas Show."

It won good audiences but not until its recent move from Cleveland to Philadelphia did it hit its present stride. His nearness to New York has brought him a big array of top variety stars as guests.

THIS YEAR "The Mike Douglas Show" claims an audience four times the size of Johnny Carson's, having no competition in the afternoon except from old movies, soap operas, and cartoons and he has become the darling of the ladies who are watching at that time. In recent weeks he has been getting into the act more frequently than Milton Berle.

He is mercifully limited in the Art Linkletter area of purse-snatching — although he has leanings in that direction — and he can sing. His interviews are pleasant but certainly not intellectual. He is occasionally naughty but never off-color.

What I'm trying to say is that he's "safe" for the ladies and as a result they have flocked to his side, by the millions.

Three Take Courses at El Camino

Three West High students are now attending El Camino College under an advanced placement program. The students are enrolled in one class each at the college.

David Forbes has signed up for a mathematics class, while Janice Field is studying philosophy. Larry Wright is taking a course in welding.

Students participating in the advanced placement program select their classes after consultation with Howard Cole, a West High counselor, and their parents.

Art Work On Cover Of Journal

Appearing on the cover of a current national magazine is an illustration by the son of a Torrance teacher.

The artist is Charles McVicker of Princeton, N. J., son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McVicker of 2118 Arlington Ave. Mrs. McVicker teaches at Torrance Elementary School.

McVicker's illustration, depicting a girl addressing an empty auditorium, appears on the cover of the January, 1966, issue of the NEA Journal, a national teacher's publication.

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